

Ruth Holzer

Fritz and *Mutti*,  
1938

Early last June he turned seventeen  
and planned to study medicine in Kiel.  
Now it's November with long twilight  
and smothering fog from the Elbe.  
His father orders him to terminate  
his friendship with the doctor's son.

One night he can't sleep for all the noise.  
At the window next morning,  
he sees the neighborhood women  
parading up and down the high street  
in their looted finery. His mother  
is wearing an astrakhan coat and walks on glass.

